(e) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of coal from nearby coal mines

3043. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Gujarat is getting coal for power generation from coalfield located far away, with the result the freight cost of coal is higher than the actual cost of the coal;

(b) whether Government are considering to allocate coal from the nearby coal mines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the State of Gujarat is far away from the coal bearing States, in some cases, the cost of freight in transportation of coal becomes higher than the coal price. However, efforts are made by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial committee comprising of Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways and representatives of coal companies, to allocate coal to various power utilities, keeping in view, *inter-alia*, their proximity from the coalfields, coal availability, grade of coal as per the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) norms and transport logistics involved. Coal allocation accordingly to power stations in Gujarat is made, to the extent possible, from South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Chhattisgarh and Western Coalfields Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Illegal coal mining in different coalfields

†3044. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the incidents of illegal mining are taking place in different coalfields in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cases of illegal mining are detected predominantly in the eastern region, mainly in the States of Jharkhand, covering BCCL, CCL and ECL, and West Bengal, covering ECL and BCCL.

Illegal mining takes place stealthily and clandestinely both inside and outside leasehold areas of the coal companies. As such it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of coal, which was extracted illegally. However, the quantity of coal seized from illegally worked-out patches during last years is given below:-

Company	Quantity Seized (Tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	2625.00	1331.97	2481.00
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	363.00	120.50	639.31
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	128.00	428.00	532.50
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	74.00	144.00	26.50
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	43.00	955.65	42.50
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Eastern Coalfields Limited (NECL)	0.00	600.00	0.00
TOTAL :	3233.00	3580.12	3721.81

(c) Law and order is a State subject. However, details of FIRs lodged and arrests made during the last three years in case of illegal mining of coal are given below:

Company	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (Provisional)	
	FIR lodged	Arrests made	FIRs lodged	Arrests made	FIRs lodged	Arrests made
ECL	96	0	17	11	9	32
BCCL	193	6	120	9	83	28
CCL	26	5	113	27	63	14
NLC	0	0	0	0	0	0
WCL	2	4	2	6	5	8
SECL	8	18	22	22	14	49
MCL	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEC	0	0	7	0	6	1
CIL	325	33	281	75	180	132

Ensuring safety in coal mines

3045. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many coal mines are functioning against the advice of the Directorate General of Mines Safety and the number of such mines which are under public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details of such mines and the steps which are being taken to ensure safety of such mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. No coal mine is operating against the advice of the Directorate General of Mines Safety.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.